

Senate File 159 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 159
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1031)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to assessment scores set by the department
2 of education for successful completion of a practitioner
3 preparation program and for initial teacher licensure and
4 providing for related matters.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 3, Code 2019, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Prescribe standards and procedures for the approval of
4 practitioner preparation programs and professional development
5 programs offered in this state by practitioner preparation
6 institutions located within or outside this state and by
7 area education agencies. Procedures provided for approval
8 of programs shall include procedures for enforcement of
9 the prescribed standards and, except as provided in section
10 256.16, subsection 3, shall not include a procedure for the
11 waiving of any of the standards prescribed. The board may
12 establish by rule and collect from practitioner preparation
13 institutions located outside this state an amount equivalent
14 to the department's necessary travel and actual expenses
15 incurred while engaged in the program approval process for the
16 institution located outside this state. Amounts collected
17 under this subsection shall be deposited in the general fund
18 of the state.

19 Sec. 2. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,
20 subparagraph (2), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

21 (2) Administer, prior to a student's completion of the
22 practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's
23 approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally
24 recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge
25 of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable
26 subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for
27 preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning.
28 A student shall not successfully complete the program unless
29 the scores achieved by the student achieves scores on the
30 assessments administered under this subparagraph are at or
31 above the twenty-fifth percentile nationally on the assessments
32 administered pursuant to this subparagraph minimum passing
33 scores set by the department.

34 (a) In setting the minimum passing scores for purposes of
35 this subparagraph, the department shall consider all of the

1 following:

2 (i) The recommended scores which are determined by the
3 assessment provider through a validated standard-setting
4 process.

5 (ii) Scores required of similar tests in neighboring
6 states.

7 (iii) The supply and demand imbalance of content areas or
8 teaching positions currently experienced in Iowa.

9 (b) A student who successfully completes the practitioner
10 preparation program as required under this subparagraph shall
11 be deemed to have attained a passing score on the assessments
12 administered under this subparagraph even if the department
13 subsequently sets different minimum passing scores.

14 Sec. 3. Section 256.16, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 2. A person initially applying for a license shall
17 successfully complete ~~a professional education a practitioner~~
18 preparation program approved under section 256.7, subsection 3,
19 and containing the subject matter specified in [this section](#),
20 before the initial action by the board of educational examiners
21 under chapter 272 takes place. However, this subsection shall
22 not apply to a person who meets the requirements for an initial
23 one-year license in accordance with subsection 3.

24 Sec. 4. Section 256.16, Code 2019, is amended by adding the
25 following new subsection:

26 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The state board shall adopt rules
27 under chapter 17A to provide that the director shall waive
28 the assessment requirements of subsection 1, paragraph "a",
29 subparagraph (2), for not more than one year for a person
30 who has completed the course requirements for an approved
31 practitioner preparation program but attained an assessment
32 score below the minimum passing scores set by the department
33 for successful completion of the program under subsection 1,
34 paragraph "a", subparagraph (2).

35 Sec. 5. Section 272.2, subsection 14, paragraph b,

1 subparagraph (5), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

2 (5) The applicant fails to meet board standards for
 3 application for an initial or renewed license. However, this
 4 subparagraph shall not apply to a person who applies for an
 5 initial one-year license and submits to the board a waiver
 6 issued by the director of the department of education in
 7 accordance with section 256.16, subsection 3.

8 Sec. 6. Section 272.2, Code 2019, is amended by adding the
 9 following new subsection:

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 21. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
 11 create a nonrenewable initial one-year license for an applicant
 12 who obtains a waiver issued by the director of the department
 13 of education in accordance with section 256.16, subsection
 14 3, and presents the waiver within thirty days of issuance
 15 to the board of educational examiners. Such an applicant
 16 must also provide an affidavit from the administrator of a
 17 school district or an accredited nonpublic school verifying
 18 that an offer of a teaching contract has been made and the
 19 school district or accredited nonpublic school has made every
 20 reasonable and good-faith effort to employ a teacher licensed
 21 under chapter 272 for the specified subject and is unable to
 22 employ such a teacher.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill authorizes the department of education to set the
 27 minimum passing scores necessary for a student to successfully
 28 complete a practitioner preparation program in order to receive
 29 an initial teaching license from the board of educational
 30 examiners and establishes a waiver procedure for students who
 31 do not attain the minimum assessment score.

32 Currently, students must achieve scores above the 25th
 33 percentile nationally on certain subject and performance-based
 34 assessments. In setting the minimum assessment scores, the
 35 bill directs the department to consider the recommended scores

1 determined by the assessment provider through a validated
2 standard-setting process, scores required of similar tests
3 in neighboring states, and the supply and demand imbalance
4 of content areas or teaching positions currently experienced
5 in Iowa. Even if the department sets new passing scores in
6 subsequent years, a student who successfully completes the
7 practitioner preparation program shall be deemed to have
8 achieved minimum passing scores.

9 The state board must adopt rules requiring that the
10 director of the department of education waive the assessment
11 requirements for one year for a person who has completed
12 approved practitioner preparation program course requirements
13 but attained an assessment score below the minimum.

14 The board of educational examiners must adopt rules to
15 create a nonrenewable initial one-year license for applicants
16 who obtain a waiver and present it within 30 days of issuance
17 to the board.

18 A licensure applicant who applies for such an initial
19 one-year license must also provide an affidavit from the
20 administrator of a school district or an accredited nonpublic
21 school verifying that an offer of a teaching contract has been
22 made and that the school district or accredited nonpublic
23 school has made every reasonable effort but has failed to
24 employ an Iowa-licensed teacher for the specified subject.

25 Provisions of law that restrict initial licensure to those
26 who have successfully completed an approved practitioner
27 preparation program and to those who have met board standards
28 for initial licensure are made inapplicable to persons who meet
29 initial one-year licensure and waiver requirements.